

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 2, 2002 has been received and carefully reviewed, and the foregoing amended claims and the following comments are a complete response thereto. Claims 2 and 4-8 are all the pending claims.

By this Amendment, Claims 1 and 3 have been canceled and Claims 2 and 4-8 have been amended as follows: Claim 2 has been combined with the subject matter of canceled claim 1; Claim 4 has been combined with the subject matter of canceled Claims 1 and 3; Claim 5 has been combined with the subject matter of canceled Claims 1 and 3; Claim 6 has been combined with the subject matter of canceled claim 1; Claim 7 has been combined with the subject matter of canceled claim 1; and Claim 8 has been amended to depend from Claims 2 and 4-7. No new matter has been added, and consideration and entry of the amended claims is requested. None of claims 2 and 4-8 have been narrowed in any aspect.

After having performed a prior art search on claims 2 and 4-7, the Examiner deems these claims to be free of prior art. The claims are presently objected to for depending from rejected base claims. Applicants have amended Claims 2 and 4-7 into independent format, therefore bringing these claims into condition for allowance. Additionally, Applicants have amended Claim 8 to depend from Claims 2 and 4-7 which would also bring Claim 8 into condition for allowance.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims 1, 3 and 8 for obviousness-type double patenting

Claims 1, 3 and 8 are rejected for obviousness-type double patenting in view of Claims 5 and 1 of co-pending Application No. 09/585,402.

Applicants submit that in view of the cancellation of Claims 1 and 3, the Examiner's rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is deemed proper.

II. Response to Rejection of Claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Harrington (USPN 3,930,528).

Applicants submit that in view of the cancellation of Claim 1, the Examiner's rejection is rendered moot with respect to this claim. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from the allowed claims, and therefore, Claim 8 is now allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is deemed proper.

III. Response to Rejection of Claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over JP 8323875 in view of Harrington.

Applicants submit that in view of the cancellation of Claim 1, the Examiner's rejection is rendered moot with respect to this claim. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from the allowed claims, Claims 2 and 4-7, and therefore, Claim 8 is now allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is deemed proper.

IV. Response to Provisional Rejection of Claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicants submit that in view of the cancellation of Claim 1, the Examiner's rejection is rendered moot with respect to this claim. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from the allowed claims, and therefore, Claim 8 is now allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is deemed proper.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amended claims, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejections of the claims for obviousness-type double patenting and under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a), are now overcome. That is, clear differences exist between the present invention as claimed and the prior art relied upon by the Examiner. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as claimed would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made viewing that prior art. Applicants submit that the claims as well as the entire application are now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to allow this application to pass to issuance.

In the event that any fees are due with respect to this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Client Matter No. 107348-00041.

Respectfully submitted,

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC



Lynn A. Bristol
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 48,898

Customer No. 004372
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D. C. 20036-5339
Tel (202) 857-6000
Fax (202) 638-4810

LAB/elp
Enclosures: Marked-Up Copy of Claims
Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment and Fee Transmittal

MARKED UP COPY OF CLAIMS 2 AND 4-8 FOR USAN 09/623,481

2. (Amended) A sealant-incorporated tire manufacturing method [according to claim 1,] comprising the steps of superimposing an inner liner onto an inner surface of a tire body prior to vulcanization and bonding at least a part of said inner liner to the inner surface of said tire body by vulcanization to define an annular sealant chamber by said inner liner inside a tread of said tire body, in which a mold release sheet having a mold releasing property are placed on a portion of said inner liner facing to said sealant chamber prior to vulcanization,

wherein at least a part of one surface of said mold release sheet [(9)] has the mold releasing property, and [.] in the vulcanization step, a part of said mold release sheet [(9)] which has no mold releasing property is bonded to a wall surface of said sealant chamber [(6)] by vulcanization.

4. (Amended) A sealant-incorporated tire manufacturing method [according to claim 3,] comprising the steps of superimposing an inner liner onto an inner surface of a tire body prior to vulcanization and bonding at least a part of said inner liner to the inner surface of said tire body by vulcanization to define an annular sealant chamber by said inner liner inside a tread of said tire body, in which a mold release sheet having a mold releasing property are placed on a portion of said inner liner facing to said sealant chamber prior to vulcanization, wherein said mold release sheet is formed of a material soluble in a sealant so that said mold release sheet is dissolved into said sealant by injecting said sealant into said sealant chamber, and wherein said mold release sheet [(9₁, 9₂, 9₃)] is formed of water-soluble paper or non-woven fabric.

5. (Amended) A sealant-incorporated tire manufacturing method [according to claim 3,] comprising the steps of superimposing an inner liner onto an inner surface of a tire body prior to vulcanization and bonding at least a part of said inner liner to the inner surface of said tire body by vulcanization to define an annular sealant chamber by said inner liner inside a tread of said tire body, in which a mold release sheet having a mold releasing property are placed on a portion of said inner liner facing to said sealant chamber prior to

vulcanization, wherein said mold release sheet is formed of a material soluble in a sealant so that said mold release sheet is dissolved into said sealant by injecting said sealant into said sealant chamber, and wherein said mold release sheet [(9₁, 9₂, 9₃)] is a film formed of a natural polysaccharide.

6. (Amended) A sealant-incorporated tire manufacturing method [according to claim 1,] comprising the steps of superimposing an inner liner onto an inner surface of a tire body prior to vulcanization and bonding at least a part of said inner liner to the inner surface of said tire body by vulcanization to define an annular sealant chamber by said inner liner inside a tread of said tire body, in which a mold release sheet having a mold releasing property are placed on a portion of said inner liner facing to said sealant chamber prior to vulcanization, wherein a plurality of mold release sheets [(9₁, 9₂, 9₃)] are laminated one on another.

7. (Amended) (Amended) A sealant-incorporated tire manufacturing method [according to claim 1,] comprising the steps of superimposing an inner liner onto an inner surface of a tire body prior to vulcanization and bonding at least a part of said inner liner to the inner surface of said tire body by vulcanization to define an annular sealant chamber by said inner liner inside a tread of said tire body, in which a mold release sheet having a mold releasing property are placed on a portion of said inner liner facing to said sealant chamber prior to vulcanization, wherein said mold release sheet [(9₂)] is folded into a corrugated shape prior to vulcanization, and said mold release sheet [(9₂)] is expanded in the vulcanization step.

8. (Amended) A sealant-incorporated tire [, which is] manufactured by [the] a sealant-incorporated tire manufacturing method [according to any] as in one of claims [1 to 7] 2 or 4-7.